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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 24 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 24 August 2014, regarding the so-called presidential elections held in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 24 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the so-called presidential elections held in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia

On 24 August 2014 the so-called extraordinary presidential elections were held in the occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia. This illegal act represents yet another unsuccessful attempt to disguise the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of people by elements of ostensible democratic governance.

During the past 20 years, people displaced from Georgia's occupied regions have been deprived of the right to return to their places of permanent residence whereas the fundamental rights and freedoms of a small number of the population still living in these regions, in particular their civil, economic and social rights, are violated every day by the occupation regime. Of particular concern are the occupation regime's statements calling for the harassment and, in some cases, even for the expulsion of ethnic Georgians living in the Abkhazia region.

The provisions of the ceasefire agreement continue to be violated, in parallel with the grave human rights situation in the occupied regions. International observers, including representatives of the European Union monitoring mission, are denied access to the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia to monitor the existing situation there. The actions designed to undermine the agreed format and agenda of the International Geneva Discussions continue to hinder the discussion of important issues on the agenda.

The so-called presidential elections illegally held in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia on 24 August 2014 represent a total disrespect and neglect of the fundamental principles of international law, in particular the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on the international community, based on its firm position with respect to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to condemn the so-called presidential elections illegally held in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia.